

Marriage Ceremonies:

OR, THE

CEREMONIES

USED IN

MARRIAGES

In all Parts of the

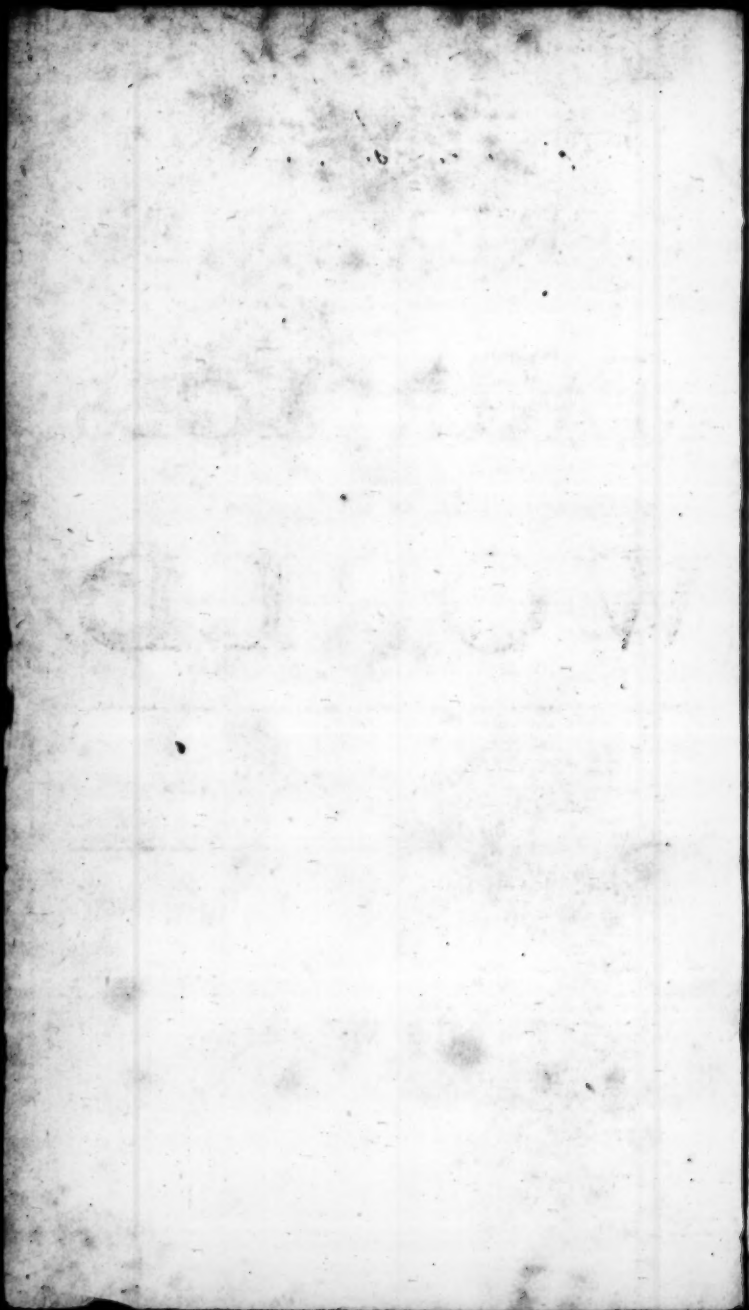
WORLD.

By Signior GAYA.

Translated from the Italian.

L O N D O N,

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THE
PREFACE.

FEW Authors agree in the Definition of Matrimony, Charron calls it a wise Bargain, a State, or an honourable Conjunction, some greater Criticks call it a Toak, a Communion of Evils and Punishments, a Society of Cares and Troubles. But without adhering to the Sentiments of the one, or the different Opinion of others that criticize upon it, I shall define Matrimony according to the Canonists, to be, a sacred
A 2 Union

The Preface.

Union of Man and Woman, not to be dissolved but by the Death of one of them. Matrimonium est viri & mulieris Conjunctio individuum vitæ Societatem continens.

This is the first and most ancient State, owing its Institution to the supreme Author of Nature; and of the greater consequence, because it is the foundation of Humane Society, the Original of Families, and of Kingdoms. Prima Societas est in Conjugio, quod principium urbis, seminarium Republicæ.

Marriage is not solemnized in the same manner every where, but the Rules and Laws of Marriages

The Preface.

riages are more or less strict, according to the Diversity of Religions and Nations. Among the Christians they are the most strict, when the greatest part of other Religions to make Marriages more free, easy and fruitful, allow Polygamy and Divorce. Yet, among all the different Laws and Customs in the World, there is no Nation so Barbarous, as not to solemnize Marriage with some Rites, Ceremonies, and publick Rejoicings.

This made the Author enquire and observe what are used among the Christians, Jews, Mahometans and Idolaters, which make up the four Religions that are known to the World. And

The Preface.

as the Religion of the Jews is the most Ancient, and God has been pleased in a peculiar manner to honour them with the Name of his chosen People; their Rites are first described in this small Treatise of Marriage Ceremonies, which is here submitted to the Judgment of the Candid Reader, and 'tis hoped may be to his Satisfaction.

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PART I.

CHAP. I.

The Rites observed in the Marriages of the Jews.

THE Jews ordinarily marry their Sons at Eighteen Years of Age, according to the Laws of the *Talmud*, and sometimes sooner to prevent Incontinency; their Daughters may be married as soon as they have compleated Twelve Years and a Day.

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When the Marriage of two Persons is agreed, many of the *Jews* both Young and Old get together in some covered place, where the younger take every one in their Hands an Earthen Vessel. The Marriage Contract is audibly Read, and Notice given of the day of Marriage, and it is also declared that the Party which shall not stand to what is agreed, shall pay the other so much as is concerted betwixt them. Afterwards they wish all Happiness to one another, and then the young *Jews* throw their Vessels on the Ground, concluding the breaking of them fortells good Fortune and Plenty. When they go away, there is one at the Door, that gives every one a Glass of Wine to Drink, and sometimes Confits. He that is to bless the Marriage takes a Glass of Wine, which he Blesses, and having tasted it, gives it to the married Couple to Drink, who
after-

afterwards go not abroad for Eight days, during which many young Men visit the Husband to divert him, and be merry with him.

The Woman is obliged to wash her self in cold Water the day before the Marriage, and she is put into the Bath by the Women, who make a great noise that every one may know she is to be a Bride. Many of these Women Sing and Dance in her presence, but that Levity is not approved among those in Years. The Bridegroom sends to the Bride the Matrimonial Cincture, or Girdle, with a Gold Buckle, the Bride sends the like to him only with this difference, that the Buckle is Silver.

The Wedding-day, the Bride is drest according to her Condition, *i. e.* as richly as she can, after the Fashions of the Country ;
then

then she is conducted by Women who Sing before her into a Chamber where her Head is dressed very finely, while other Women Sing and Dance in her presence, to make her chearful, they esteeming these Ceremonies very acceptable to God. When the Husband is to receive the Benediction publicly, four Young Men carry a Canopy into some publick Place, or Garden, where the Solemnity is to be performed.

The Bride-groom accompanied with his Friends, and the Bride on the other side with many Women, and Instruments of Musick meet under the Canopy, and then every one says, *Blessed be he that cometh*: The Bride-groom walks three times round his Bride, and takes her by the Hand, then the Company throw Corn upon them with that saying in the Scripture Phrase; *Crescite & Multiplicamini, Encrease and Multiply.*

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In some places with Corn, they throw also Money, which the poorer *Jews* pick up. During this Ceremony, the Bride holds the Bride-groom by the right Hand, and it is necessary she turn her Face to the *South*, for the *Rabbies* have left this writ in the *Talmud*; That if the Bed be so placed as to look to the *South*, there shall be many Children. The *Rabbi* which joins them takes a Glass of Wine, and rehearsing the Prayers that are in the *Mahzor*, after he has tasted gives to the married Couple to Drink. If the Bride be a Virgin, he gives her a narrow Glass, if a Widow, one wide, and the *Rabbi* receiving from the Bride-groom a Gold plain Ring, calls some Witnesses and shewing it to them, asks if it be Gold. Then he puts it on the Brides second Finger, and Reads aloud the Contract of Marriage; after takes another glass full of Wine, and giving thanks to God that the
new

new married Couple have plighted their Troth, he gives it them to drink again : The Bride-groom having drunk, casts the Glass with all his force against the Wall, or Ground, that it may break in memory of the destruction of *Jerusalem*. In some places they lay Ashes on the Bride-groom's Head in memory of the *Temple* Burnt, and for this very cause, he wears a Black Cap on his head, as they do who are in Mourning.

The Bride has a Black Cap too on her head, to shew they are both afflicted for the destruction of the *Temple*, even in their greatest Rejoicings. The married Couple are led to a Banquet, where being sat, the Bride-groom is obliged to Sing a long Prayer the best he can, and at the same time, an Egg and an Hen drest is set before the Bride. He presents her a small piece of this Hen, and pre-

presently the Guests, as well Men as Women, scramble for the rest, and tear it in pieces with their hands, whoever gets the greatest share is reputed the most fortunate of the Company ; so they snatch from one another with Out-cries to make the new married merry. As for the Egg, which is raw, it is thrown in some ones Face, and if there happen to be a Christian present, he is not spared. This Egg is presented first to the Bride, that it may be ominous for her bearing Children, as easily as the Hen her Eggs. After these Diversions, the Table is spread with good Meat, and then they forget the *Temple* and *Jerusalem*. When they have Eat, they Dance the Wedding Dance, instituted (as they say) by God himself. The most Honourable Person takes the Bride-groom by the Hand, he another, and so the rest, till they all join in the Dance. The chiefest among the Women likewise takes

takes the Bride, and they join as the men, so that the Dance is very long and confused. The Wedding continues some times Eight days, but it is expressly forbid the *Jews* to invite any Christian, because they believe the good Angels flee their Company, and that the bad ones follow them.

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*The Ceremonies u-
sed in the Mar-
riages of the
Christians.*

C H A P. II.

*The Customs and Ceremonies of
the Roman Catholicks.*

*P*OLIGAMY, or the use of many
Wives, is common among the
Infidels, but so strickly forbid
the Christians, that they can
have only one Wife on pain of
Death

Death, and she they must marry in the Church, and before the Parish Priest, or Curate. All other Marriages contracted are declar'd Invalid and Clandestine, and the Issue esteemed Bastards, and also disabled Succession. The Ceremonies in the Marriages of the Church of *Rome* have been prescribed by *Councils*. That of *Trent*, for the preventing Abuses, annuls all Marriages not solemnized before the Parish Priest of one of the Parties, and therefore according to the Decrees of the Roman Church, as soon as they have resolved a Marriage, the Priests of those Churches to which the Parish are obliged to make Publication three *Sundays*, or Feasts next ensuing, that all the Parishioners having notice of the intended Marriage, may declare to the Priest, if they know it, any lawful Impediment.

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When no Cause appears to hinder the Marriage, they are both taken by their Parents to the brides Parish Church, where they mutually promise Marriage before the Priest, who asks, if they are content to be Married, and if not engaged before to others. This Ceremony is only a preparation, and a pledge to receive the Sacrament of Marriage, from which none can be released but in the Bishop's Court, which condemns either party in Costs and Damages, and to a Fine, that will depart from it.

In some Bishopricks after the Marriage is resolved, they make solemn Promises before the Publication in the Church.

The day before the Marriage, the betrothed after Confession go to receive the Communion, and the day following are conducted to Church, where the Priest when he

he has asked their Names and Surnames, demands of them if they are content to be married if they have made no solemn Vow or Promise of Marriage to others if they engage to Love and live Faithfully to each other? When all these Questions are answered in the Affirmative, he Blesses the Ring and Thirteen pieces of Money, which he gives to the Bridegroom.

The Bride-groom first puts the Ring on the fourth Finger of the Bride, saying, with the Priest *With this Ring I thee Wed*, and then giving her the Money, goes on, *With my Goods I thee Endow* she answers with some Complement directed in the Ceremonial and afterwards the Priest takes them by their Hands, saying to them, *Et ego conjungo vos in nomine Patris, & filii, & spiritus sancti, Amen.* After which he sprinkles them, and all the Company with Holy Water. After

After the Nuptial Benediction, the new married assist at the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, each holding a lighted Candle with which they go to kiss the Crucifix, and present Bread and Wine to the Priest, according to the ancient usage of the Church. If they were never married before, two of their nearest Relations hold a cloth over their Heads while the Priest recites the Prayers.

When the Mass is ended, the Priest presents the Church Register to the new married, that they may subscribe the Act of Matrimony which he has drawn up; after that, they all return in the order they came. At Night, before they go to Bed, the Priest Blesses the Bed it self where they are to Consummate their Matrimony.

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In most parts of *Italy*, the Marriage Contract is not made at the Church, but only before the Priest; then making the usual Publications, they are married at Noon with great Ceremony, and before Sun rise, without pomp or any Ceremony, the Bride being led to Church by her own Father alive, or her next Relation.

When a noble *Venetian* marriage day is appointed for giving the Ring to the Bride, whom they call the new married Wife, and the Function is performed in her House in the presence of many other Nobles, their Relations and Friends that come thither, and are invited to an Entertainment. After this, they formerly used to let the Bride be seen uncovered in a *Gondola*, adorned with the richest Jewels, but now she is to be seen in the *Corso* and in publick places with other Ladies, her Face cover'd with a Veil, and led by

by the Bride-groom who may be freely with her in her House, and then they receive the Sacrament at Church, and so consummate the Matrimony; when the Bride's House is open, and they have dancing the greatest part of the Night.

The *Sicilians* used heretofore to make the Contract, and receive the Nuptial Benediction in their own Houses, and only received the Sacrament at the Death of one of them, but that is forbid by the Council of *Trent*; the Brides likewise went on Horse-back through the City in great Pomp and Train, but that custom is laid aside since the invention of Coaches. Now after the Articles of Marriage are signed, the Bride-groom may converse freely with his Bride, and sometimes they live many years in the state of Matrimony without the Offices of the Church. At the Marriages of the Country people

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people they Dance very much, and there is always a great number of Guests, Relations and others, for they are obliged to regale the new married, when they have been entertained three times. Their Feasts are with bak't Meats and Rice-Milk.

In *France* the Bride-groom, attended by his Relations and Friends, goes to wait upon the Bride at her Houle, to conduct her to Church. He goes first betwixt two of his kindred, and is followed by all the young Men, who walk two and two together, the married Men preceding in the Ceremony. The Bride comes after drest in her best Apparel, having on her Head a little Crown of white Flower, or Pearls, and in some places they appear with their Heads bare, and their Hair hanging down. Two of her nearest Kindred lead her by the Hand and she is followed by all the Maidens

Maidens invited to the Wedding, in the same order as the young Men before, every one having a little Crown like to that of the Bride. All the other Women then follow according to the nearness of their Relation, and the Procession ends with a Servant of the Bride-groom, or Bride, who carries the Bread in one hand, and the Wine in the other, which the new married are obliged to present in the Church. They return then from the Church in the same order they went, only they mutually change those who lead them thither.

In some Provinces, as soon as they are returned home from Church, they have an Entertainment, and all their Kindred, Friends, and Guests bring their Presents, and lay them in a large Basin that stands before the new married People, the Violins and other musical Instruments playing briskly; in others, they make their

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Presents the day after the Marriage, and in some again it is not the custom to present at all.

The Bride-groom sits not down to the Entertainment with his Friends, but stands behind the Bride, who is in the most Honourable place, he being obliged to serve Her, and see every thing accommodated for Her in the best Disposition and Order. After the Feast he leads her to Dance, the young Men and the Maidens continue Dancing, while the married Men and Women after a convenient time attend the new married Couple to the Chamber where they are to lye. The Bride uses some Entreaty before she suffers her self to be undrest, but after a little resistance, pretending to submit to force, is delivered over to the Bride-groom to consummate the Marriage, and to gain, as they call it, her Dowry: In some places the poor Bride has not the liberty

liberty to go to Bed when she pleases, because they tease Her first very much, and oftentimes after she has been lead about all Night, they give her in the Morning to her Bridge-groom, who pays some Money to the Bridemen for Her.

The next day the new married receive the Complements of all their Relations and Friends, and likewise of their Neighbours, to whom it is customary to make some Entertainment. At *Paris* the Bride receives the Visits drest, and upon her Bed, and by Candle Light only; but now the greater part of Persons of Quality there, privately marry in the Night, and without any Ceremony.

The *Spaniards* use in a manner the same Rites as the *French* and *Italians*, but have besides a custom which they retain from the

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Moors,

Moors, who were a long time masters of their Country, to expose to view the morning after the Marriage, out of a Balcony or Window, the Sheets in which the new married lay, to testifie the Bride's Virginity, calling it in their Language, *La verginidad de la mucher*.

Formerly the *Germans* married none but those of their own Nation, to keep themselves free from the Interests of other People. They married not their Daughters till arrived to a competent Age, and their Young Men were backward enough in their Amours, from whence it came that the Children of two grown Persons and strong in their perfect Age, were large and robust. They observe still not to marry their Sons but to Women that are Lusty, Vigorous, and likely to bread Children well. The Rites and Ceremonies of
their

their Marriages are like those of other Nations in *Europe*. Only they have this singular among them, that the Young Women which are marriageable, wear at the Marriages of their Companions, Crowns of Gold or Flowers, which are not used by others. All the Guests make some Present of a Jewel or Money, either Gold or Silver, which Offerings are put into a Basin, set near the Bride, who sits among the Women at Table, and this is always attended with some words of excuse. There are also some free Marriages, where rich Persons are at all the expence, and others, where every one pays for himself, and these Entertainments last at least three days, during which time, the new married are attended by great numbers of Persons, insomuch that an *Artisan* shall have oft-times more than Sixty of his own Rank that shall bear him company, for the more he

has, the greater Reputation it gives him. Persons of Honour and Quality use to give the next morning after the Consummation of the Marriage, their Bride a chain of Gold, or some other Jewel, in recompence for her lost Virginity, and this *Regale* or present is called *Morgengal*, because they give it as soon as they rise.

If any Woman marries a man after she has been enjoyed by him, she goes early to Church without any Musick, and sometimes, especially in the Country, all the Neighbours having Crowns of Straw, accompany her and the Bride-groom to Church. In many places the Bride is obliged to renounce all the Rights of her Family, which is done by throwing Straw into her Parents House; and if the Bride cries not when she is married, that gives suspicion of her Chastity; so to prevent

vent such a censure, many use Art to make Tears come.

The *Franconians* observe in their Marriages to have the Bridegroom walk betwixt two Persons, Drums and Trumpets going before, and the Relations and Friends follow him two and two to the door of the Church, where they stay and wait the coming of the Bride; before whom some singers walk with many Maidens, and after her follow a great number of Women wearing long Mantles of black Cloath, which are fastened about their Necks by Silver Buttons, and contract Marriage in the presence of the Priest according to the usage of the *Roman Church*.

In *Poland*, and especially in the Countries of *Prussia*, *Samogithia* and *Lithuania*, the young Women do not marry before the Age of Twenty Four Years, or

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at least not before they have wrought with their own hands Cloath and Garments to present every one that attends their Bridegroom to Church. When the Father seeks a Wife for his Son, he considers neither Beauty nor Fortune, but only her Manners, whether she be of an agreeable Age, if she has a body likely to conceive and bear Children. Having found such an one, she is taken away by some of the Bridegroom's Kindred, after which they apply for the Father's consent to compleat the Marriage. These people retain still many Relicks of Pagan Superstitions; for in the Functions or Ceremonies of Matrimony, they make the Bride go three times round the Fire, then sit down, wash her Feet, and with that Water sprinkle the Bed, and all the moveables that belong to the new married Couple. They anoint the Bride's mouth with Honey, cover her
Eyes

Eyes with a Veil, and so lead her blindfold to all the Doors of the House, which she must strike with her right Foot. They throw Wheat, Rye, Oats, Barley, Rice and Beans at the Doors, saying, That the Bride shall never want any of those Grains if she continue to be devout in her Religion, and takes care of the Affairs her Family. That done, they take the Veil from before her Eyes and have a Banquet; but at Night, when it is time to go to Bed, they Dance and cut off her Hair, then some of the Women wrap her Head in a white Linen Cloath, which she may wear till she have a Son Born, for till then she is called a Girl. Lastly, she is taken to her Chamber, where after being jocularly Pinched and Beat, they deliver her to her Bride-groom, who they give to eat Goat or Bears stones together instead of Sweat-meats and other Delicacies, which they are of Opinion, help Procreati-

on, and therefore in their Marriage Feasts, they have no Flesh of any Creature that was Gelt.

In the Island of *Goa*, the Cristians that marry, never see their Brides but at Church, and without speaking to them. When she gives leave, they go with a Priest to her at her own House, where they make a Solemn Promise of Matrimony. After this the Bridegroom may visit her, but he is not suffered to be alone with her. Indeed there are some, who will not be content to see their Brides in Church, where they know they are artificially Drest and Painted, therefore go and observe them at home, to view them better, and it is the custom that after they are married, they never paint nor dress fine more. The matrimonial Offices are ordinarily performed after Noon, and then they go to Church in great Splendor. The Bridegroom shall be sometimes at-

attended by Eighty or an Hundred men on Horse back, all Fine and Glorious, besides the Relations and Friends of both parties who assist there. The Bride is likewise accompanied with other Women and many Litters, and in their little Coaches full of her Relations or Friends. She is lead by two of her nearest a-kin, as her Husband is by two of his : When married, they are brought home in the same order, with the sound of Trumpets, Cornets, and other musical Instruments, every one as they pass by throwing Flowers, sweet Waters, and Confits upon them, which are gathered up by the Servants that wait on them. When they are at the door of their House, the new married enter with their Friends and nearest Kindred, those which stay behind, are thanked for the Honour they have done them, who out of Gallantry ride up and down in the Streets, and have
tilting:

tilting with Lances of light Canes (being very skilful at throwing them) combating with Oranges and Lemmons in sight of the new married, and others that get into the Belconies to see the Diversions. That done, they all light from their Horses and are taken into a Ground-groom, where they are treated with all sorts of Fruits, and sweets Meats, and Wines. After they have taken their leaves, the Entertainment of the Relations begins, which never lasts long, because it is the custom in these Countries to go to Bed before Sun-set. The new married without other Ceremony retire into the Chamber provided for them.

The *Sclavonians* of the *Republic* of *Ragusa* join not in alliance but with Persons of their own Rank, *i. e.* the Noble with the Noble, insomuch, that a Gentleman cannot hope for a Citizen or Stranger,

Stranger, because he may not bring into his Family strange Blood less Noble, which would be to debase it. Therefore the number of noble Families is so lessened, that there are scarce Twenty or Twenty Five that have the Government of their publick Affairs. However, if any of the Nobility desires for the interest of his Family, or for any other end to take a Foreigner to Wife, provided she be Noble, and of the Country which extends from *Za-ra* to *Cattaro*, and not otherwise, he may do it, and if she have Two Thousand Ducats of Gold for her Portion. As to the Marriages in the Country, they are thus regulated by a Decree and particular Law, that have assigned a Thousand Ducats of Gold for the young Man, but that is not strictly observed, for there are many Fathers give their Sons Four, Five, Six, nay, so many Thousand Ducats as may answer the Portions of

of the Wives they Marry. They make these Provisions in ready money, and a man is not allowed to see his Mistress before the contract be established, having then free Liberty to visit her, but before their Marriages are actually Solemnized they make no Presents. When a young Woman is married, she may wear Silk for a Month to distinguish her from others, that wear only Cloath, and the Ladies after Marriage are obliged always to wear at the Feasts a Cap lined with Red, to distinguish them from Tradesmen's Wives.

The *Flemmings*, and their Neighbours, are very ready to Marry with Strangers, upon any Overture: But among them it is a thing of the greatest shame and reproach for a Young Man to marry an Old Woman, or an Old Man a Young Woman. The common people never arrive

rive to marry a Gentlewoman, nor does one that is Noble ever marry a Commoner, and it is never seen, as in *France*, that a Master marries his Maid, or a Lady her Servant. The Gentlemen distinguish in their esteem the oldest Daughters, though they make them all equal in their Fortunes, and often refuse their eldest, when they would be glad to marry any their other Daughters.

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CHAP III.

The Customs of the Lutherans.

THE Lutherans have their Marriages celebrated in the Church after the manner of the *Romanists*, and go thither in great Pomp and Solemnity to receive the Matrimonial Benediction from one of their Priests or Ministers. In * *Argentina*, and the Country round about, when any Young Man makes Love, he declares his Affection to his Mistress by Letter, or some other way, after which he goes at Night with some of his Friends, and a great number of Torches to give her a Senerade; and this being continued two or three Nights, if she looks not out at the Balcony, he may be satisfied his Gallantry is not accepted, and that he shall not succeed; but if she appear, he may then go and discourse her in

* *Argentina* is the capital City of *Alsatia* in Germany, commonly known by the Name of *Strasbourg*.

in an Evening, but in the presence of her Servants. When the Marriage is agreed, if the Trumpets sound on *Mondays* and *Wednesdays*, they give notice of a marriage, and at brake of day, and that it is of a Tradesman, for those days are peculiar to them, and the Gentlemen and Ladies are married on the other days of the Week. There are also some free Marriages, where all the expence is defrayed by the new married, when in others every one pays his share.

In *Saxony* when one of Quality marries, the Young Gentlemen with the Ladies of the Neighbourhood, go without being invited to the Wedding-Feast, which he is obliged according to the custom of the Country to prepare plentifully. The Gentlemen strictly observe not to marry with Tradesmens Daughters, or those of the Commonalty, how rich
soever

foever they are, because that brings a dishonour upon their Families, and if any one without considering his Quality marries a Commoner for her Fortune, he runs a risque, besides the Infamy, of being killed by the other Gentlemen.

Among the *Goths, Swedes and Danes*, many ceremonies are used in their Marriages; for after the Parents of the Young Lady are informed of the Qualities of him that seeks her in Marriage, the Father presents her to him in these Words. *I give you my Daughter to be your Wife, to honour you, to take part in your Bed, to have the Keys of your House, and the third part of your Goods, moveable and unmoveable.* Then they add other Religious Ceremonies, attending the Bride to Church the day appointed with a great number of Torches, from which hang

hang little Cords and Silk Ribbons of divers colours.

When the Bride is to be given to her Husband, she goes to a Bath in Company of several Women, those of her own Age go before her, and carry in this Procession, Vessels of Beer or Wine Cinnamon, Sugar and Cakes for their Refreshment and Entertainment. When they come out they have all Garlands of Flowers, and only the Young Women Supp with the Bride. The Gentlemen marry not, but with those of their own Quality; and among the common people the Parents and Friends present the Bride with a Pigg, Sheep or Cow, and the Bride-groom with a Colt, Dog, Cat, or Goose.

In * *Livonia* when the Bride is lead to Church, she appears with a Crown on her Head of Silver Gilt,

* *Livonia*
is a great
Province of
the King-
dom of Po-
land.

Gilt, and very High, and all the Women and Maids walk before cover'd over in Mantles and long red Veils gentilely Drest.

C H A P. IV.

The Customs and Ceremonies of the Calvinists.

AFTER the Ceremonies and Customs of the *Lutherans*, follow those used among the *Calvinists* of *Geneva*, the *Dutch* and others of that Opinion.

When the Parties have consented to marry, they join Hands, and plight their Troth before one of their Ministers, and at such meeting, it is usual to make them Drink. He that Officiates takes two Glasses which he receives from them, mixes the Wine out of one into the other, and gives the Bridegroom's Glass to the Bride

Bride, and Hers to Him; after which the Bridegroom puts the Ring on his Bride's Finger. But before they marry, the Minister ought to publish in the Church the Banns of Matrimony three *Sundays* successively, to know if there be any Impediment, and after this Publication they have License from the first Syndick of the place to marry. Then the Bride goes to Church with her Relations and Friends, wearing a Garland of Flowers on her Head, and a Nose-gay stuck in her Brest, led by two young men of her nearest Kindred, attended by Virgins that follow, with the rest of her Relations, Friends and Guests. When she comes out of Church she is led to her Husband's House by her nearest Relations. The Widows that Marry have not the Garlands of Flowers on their Heads, but only the Nose-gays, and are led by their Widows, their Cosins or Friends.

The

* Frisia is
Frießland
in Hol-
land.

The Inhabitants of * *Frisia* formerly sought not after Riches only a Beautiful and Virtuous Woman, and of the same rank so that often a Gentleman that was rich Married a young Woman without Fortune, and only valuable for her Beauty and Virtue. Now they seek for Riches and high Birth as well as other People. The Bride goes to Church with a Crown on her head, a great number of young Girls going before her, they Marry after the manner of the other *Calvinists*, and the Office being ended entertain those invited. Among them only the Relations present the new Married, who esteem themselves obliged according to the value of the Presents. All day they dance in the Bridegroom's House, to divers Instruments of Musick; the next day the Bride appears with her head covered, and gives all her Guests a glass of Wine to drink, or other Liquor.

Liquor, to signifie ſhe is become Miſtreſs of the Family. All the *Hungarians* are of Opinion that he who marries not a Virgin, ſhall never have Happineſs in his Marriage, therefore they ſcarce ever marry Widows, whoſe Condition is odious to them. Beſides, if after Marriage they know their Wives have been in Love with others, they not only looſe their Affection, but that often makes them reſolve their Death.

The great Perſons in *Hungary* marry their Sons very young, and ſt from the Cradle conclude their Alliances, for the maintaining Friendſhip; and when their Sons are arrived to an Age to conſummate the Marriage, they are obliged to obſerve what their Parents have contracted for them, to prevent diſguſts of very fatal conſequences.

In

In *Scotland* the Lords of Towns and Boroughs had a Right to lie the first night with the Bride their Vassal, but that is now out of use, and the new married buy it of by a Summe of Money, to which end they have a Law abolishing that Priviledge.

The *Irish* seldom marry but with *Verba de Futuro*, and almost never with *Verba de Presenti* whence Separations are frequently seen for the smallest causes, the Husband seeking a new Wife, and the Wife another Husband, so that a certain and true Marriage is not to be known during Life. Hence arise Controversies about the Possessions of their Estates Murders and Mortal Hatred. The Women that are turned out and forsaken, go to those esteemed Witches, who they think are able to make the new Wife barren, and bring upon her dangerous maladies. The Women pres

the Presents from the *Guests*, and their *Relations*, she sits with a Gilt Crown on her Head, in the midst of the *Ginecco*; that is, the *Womens Chamber*. All that are there, after they have drunk *Malmesie-Wine*, and eaten some Sweet-Meats, go to take the Air, and return at Night to Supper; and the *New-Married* lie together, without other Publication in the Church, as the *Roman Catholicks* use. The next Day, if the *Women* find in the Bed any Signs of a *Lost Virginity*, they make a great Feast; but when that is wanting, they say nothing, the *Bridegroom* sending back the *Bride* to her *Relations* and *Friends*: And if the *Magistrate* be a *Turk*, he is engaged by some Present, not to force him to keep her. Those *Greek Women* that marry any *French-man*, *Italian*, *Spaniard* or *Turk*, are Excommunicated for some time; that is, not admitted
to

to Acts of Communion ; but they may, in the mean time, be present at the Offices of the Church.

The *Transilvanians* and *Wallachians* take the *Young Women* by Force from their *Relations Houses*, and do not marry them till after they are deflower'd : And also repudiate them, and are divorced, for the smallest Causes.

When a *Moscovite* will marry his *Daughter*, he chuses a *Young Man* to his own liking, to whom he offers her, with a *Portion*. If he accepts her, the *Father* treats with his *Relations*. The *Young Man* may not see his *Mistress*, before the Day of Marriage ; but his *Relations* earnestly enquire if she have any *Infirmity*. The *Mother* of the *Bride* makes the same Enquiries of him. The *Wedding-Day* the young People are plentifully

fully entertained before married together with their *Relations*, and the *Priest*, and then go to Church. As soon as they are there, the *Priest* asks for some Bread, according to Custom; and when he has it, performs the Offices of Joining them. He speaks first to the *Bridegroom*, and demands of him, *If he will marry that young Woman there present?* If he answer, *Yes*; he asks farther of him, *Whether he will treat her ill in Words and Deeds?* To which the *Bridegroom* answering, *No*; he demands of the *Bride*, *If she will marry him, govern his House, and be always faithful?* When she has answered, *Yes*, they have both Crowns of Wormwood set on their Heads, and he gives them the Benediction. Then he drinks their Healths in a Gilt Wooden Cup, in which the *New-Married* likewise drink; and the Cup is thrown to the Ground, and broke, and

ried and trod on, with Imprecations
 and by the *Bridegroom*, *Let them be so*
trampled on, and confounded, that
maliciously endeavour to create Ill
Will, and do ill Offices betwixt us.
 The *Moscovites* bear great Respect
 to their *Wives*, as long as they
 are well pleased with them ; but
 when they are displeased, upon
 very light Occasions they are di-
 vorced, and repudiate them ; as
 they may do for Barrenness : In
 which Case, the *Husband* having
 continued single Six Weeks, may
 afterwards marry again. *Widows*
 may marry a Second Time ; but
 the Third brings their Vertue in
 question.

CHAP VI.

*The Customs and Rites of the
Abissines.*

THE Schismatical *Christians* of the Kingdom of the *Abissines* have many Wives; and every one marries at pleasure, without Scruple. The Men are obliged to present their Wives, instead of receiving Portions with them. The Ceremonies used in their Marriage are these; The Bridegroom and Bride sit before the Church-door, while three Priests walk three times round them, singing *Alleluja*. Then they cut off some of their Hair, which they dip in Water sweetened with Honey; then lay the Bridegroom's Hair on the Bride's Head, and hers on his Head, and sprinkle both with Holy Water.

ter. After this Ceremony, they have a great Feast, and attend the New-Married home, where they are shut up a Month. When the Wife goes abroad, she has her Face covered with a black Veil, and that she wears six Months, unless she be sooner with Child. Some others use the same Ceremonies, and also Incensings; and the Priests discourse to the New-Married, of the Indissolubleness of Matrimony; and then give them the Communion, and Blessing.

CHAP. VII.

The Ceremonies of the Copticks.

WHEN the *Copticks*, who are Schismatick *Christians*, the Native Inhabitants of *Egypt*, marry, the Friends and Relations of the Bridegroom first wait upon him, then the Bride, and thence to Church, where they are married, having many Torches, and Lighted Candles, singing all the Way Hymns in the Language of the Country, and striking little Ebony Tables with certain Hammers of Wood, which, among them, serves for Musick. This Ceremony is ordinarily after the Mid-night Prayer, or, as the *Roman Catholicks* speak, *Mattens*. Being come to Church, they take the Bridegroom into the Choir, where the Men sit, and the Office

is

is sung, and the Bride is set among the Women. Then the Priests and People begin some Prayers, with Hymns, which last a long time; and towards the end, he that officiates, goes near the Bridegroom, reads to him three or four Prayers, and signs him with the Sign of the Cross at the beginning and end of every one; then makes him sit down on the Ground, his Face turned to the East, and holding a Silver Cross over his Head, he holds it there till the Prayers are ended.

While this is done in the Choir, the *Sacristan* having placed a Seat without the Choir, makes the Bride sit down with one of her nearest Relations, and the Priests conclude the Prayers in the Choir, which are called *Le Orazioni di Nodo*. He that officiates, dresses the Bridegroom in a long white Garment, reaching down to his

Ancles, binds his Reins with a Girdle, and puts a white Cloth on his Head. Thus habited, he leads him to the Bride ; and placing him near her, covers them both with the same Cloth ; laying their Heads together, anoints both their Foreheads with Oil, and the Joints of their Hands. Then he joins their Right Hands, and reads aloud to them the Exhortation which contains the Duties they are mutually obliged to ; and with these Prayers and Ceremonies, concludes the Solemnity of the Marriage ; which is called, *L'Incoronatione delli Sposi*. Then follow the *Lauds* ; after which, *Mass* begins, and both communicate ; and that finished, are accompanied home. ;

CHAP VIII.

*The Rites and Ceremonies of the
Sabeans.*

THE *Sabeans*, or the *Christians* of *St. John*, that live on the Confines of *Persia*, next *Turkey*, may have two Wives, according to their Law, which seems to be a Mixture of *Christianity*, *Turcism*, *Judaism* and *Paganism*. The Ceremony of their Marriages is very short. The Parties meeting together at Church, in presence of their Relations and Friends, the Minister makes the Bride swear before the Women that she is a Virgin ; after which, his Wives search her, and make their Report. Then the Minister baptizes both ; and making them turn Back to Back, reads some Prayer, and so they are reckoned married,

married, and carried back to the Bride's Father's, where they feast according to the Custom of the Country. The Ministers have the same Liberty to marry, as the Laicks, two Wives; and their Sons, if Sixteen or Seventeen Years old at their Death, succeed in the Ministry; for want of whom, the next a-kin have that Dignity.

CHAP.

CHAP. IX.

*The Ceremonies of the Christians
of Colchis, or Mengretia,
the Georgians, Circassians,
and others.*

THE Christians of (a) Col- (a) Col-
chis, (b) Georgia and (c) Cir- chis, or
cassia, and their Borderers, almost Mengre-
the same in Religion with the Sa- tia, is a
beans, or Christians of St. John, Province in
celebrate their Marriages in this Asia, in
manner. If the Bishop or Priest Georgia,
be not in the Church when they towards the
go to be married, which is done North, and
upon sudden Resolutions, they go Euxine
to their Houses, the Place being Sea, which
bounds it on
the West.

(b) Geor-
gia is a
great Coun-
try in Asia, lying between the Caspian Sea to the East, and the
Euxine to the West, and bounded on the North by Circassia, Co-
mania, and the Dominions of the Czar of Moscow; and on the
South by Schirran, a Province of Persia.

(c) Circassia is a vast Space of Ground, extended from the
Cimerian Bosphorus, and the Fens of Mæotis, on the Eastern
Shore of the Euxine Sea, for 500 Miles; and reaching 200 to-
wards the North.

very

very indifferent to them. The Minister has two Crowns, which he puts on their Heads, with these Words, used according to the Person, *Let the Servant of God N. be crowned by the Servant of God N.* Then he sews their Clothes together ; gives them a Glass of Wine, of which they both drink ; and cutting the Thread that held their Garments, all the Ceremonies of their Marriage are ended, though no Consent be then declared on either side. The *Circassians* use no other Ceremony, than only the Promise which is made before Witnesses to be faithful, and not to take another Wife as long as the first lives, unless compelled by some weighty Motive.

Marriage Ceremonies.

PART II.

The Rites observed in the Mar- riages of the Mahometans.

ALL the *Turks* may have four lawful Wives, and as many more Slaves; nay, as many as they can maintain. Those Slaves are free, by whom they have a Son; nor can their Masters sell them any more, but may give them away. All their Priests may marry, ex-
cepting

cepting the *Dervises*, that are like the *Religious in the Church of Rome*. The *Turks* may turn away, and take their Wives again four times ; and may not only marry those who are a-kin to them, but the nearest ; concluding, a double Tie makes the Friendship stronger. When they have a Mind to marry, the nearest Relations on both sides meet together, to agree the Dowry the Husband shall give his intended Wife ; for Parents give nothing to their Daughters ; as was also observed among the *Christians of the East*. This being done, the Man sends the Father of his Mistress, or her next Relation, the Summ agreed, that part may be laid out in Clothes and Household-Furniture, according to the Quality of the Persons ; and the rest left in her Hands, or her Relations ; without whose Consent, he can never pretend any Disposition thereof. However,
most

most Fathers contribute to the Charge of the Marriages. And that Things may be done with the greater *Decorum*, the Care of all the Preparation is left to a Friend of the Bridegroom, who is called *Sagois*.

The Bride continues always covered eight Days before Marriage ; and she is not to be seen otherwise, so much as by the Relations of her intended Husband, who goes about all the while with a Friend, inviting his Relations and Friends to be at his Wedding. Those that are invited, send their Presents the Day before, according to the Degree of the Persons : And the same Day the Bride bathes, and is washed by two or three Women, with great Care : Which Action is so solemn among them, that when she goes to the bath, her nearest Relations walk before her, with lighted Torches
in

in their Hands. By means of a Dust, which they call *Elcana*, they make the Hair of the Bride red; as also her Nails, the Palms of her Hands, her Feet, and her Heels.

The Marriage-day being come, the Bridegroom sends a Present to the *Cadis*, or Judge, desiring his Advice about the Dowry he gives his Bride. That done, the *Sagois*, his particular Friend, accompanied by all the Guests, with a great Number of Musical Instruments, Drums, Pipes and Trumpets, goes to the Bride's House : Being come thither, he is intreated, with his Company, to sit down; and after a Banquet, the Bride's Father takes her by the Hand, and delivers her to the *Sagois*, who presently seats her on Horseback, and carries her to the Bridegroom's House : All the Relations and Guests follow her; and after them, Carts and Horses.

Horses that carry the Furniture. The Bride rides with a Veil over her Face, and an Umbrella over her Head ; having on each side her Servants, Chamber-Maids and Nurses, that lament the Loss of her Virginity. In the mean time, she salutes all she meets by the Way, bowing her Head ; which Women may never do, only on that Day.

When she is come to the Bride-room's House, she gets off her Horse, and he receiving her, carries her, with the other Women, to a Chamber distinct from that of the Men ; where, after Supper, the Ball begins. When every one is withdrawn, the *Sagois* takes the Bride by the Hand, and leading her to the Bridegroom's Chamber, delivers her to the Eunuchs, that wait after her till he comes. When he is with her, he takes off her Veil first, then all the rest of

of her Clothes, she pretending some Resistance, especially at the last. The next Day the *Sagois* makes his Complements and Jests with the Bridegroom, while the Bride is taken by her Relations and Chamber-Maids to a Bath, where they wash her all over again.

These are the Ceremonies used by Persons of Quality: The ordinary People do it with less Pomp and Noise. The *Turks* may marry their Sisters, provided they begin with the eldest; for if they begin with the youngest, they cannot marry the others.

The *Arabians* formerly took their Wives for a Time certain expressly agreed: And that there might be some Shew of Matrimony in their Contract, the Wife gave her Husband for Portion a Bearded Arrow: However,

was to leave him at the Time limited. This proceeded from the great Lust that reigned in both Sexes, equally delighting all their Lives in Change; insomuch, that a Woman has been married in one place, was brought to Bed in another, and bred up her Children in a third, without ever enjoying any Repose.

Those of (a) *Arabia Fælix* had their Wives in every House in common, who lay with the most Vigorous. He that came first, left his Staff at the Woman's Chamber-Door; which was a Sign that Place was taken up. It was esteemed Adultery, lying with a Man of another Family.

(a) *Arabia is a very large Country in Asia, and is divided into three Parts: Deserta, which is the least of all three, and lies most North. Fælix, the*

greatest of all three, and lies extended to the South and East; and is encompassed on all sides by the Sea, except towards the North, where it bounds on the other two Arabia's: There are in it many Kingdoms, and great Cities. Petraea, or the Stony Arabia, lies more West.

Now

Now the *Arabians* marry as many Wives as they please, without ever rejecting any, as the *Turks* do; but buy them, and only observe never to take any, that is not of their Family, or Tribe. As to other Formalities, they observe the same Ceremonies in their Marriages as the *Turks*.

When the *Persians* make Love, and will shew their Mistresses that they are very affectionate and faithful, they burn themselves on some part of their Bodies, by setting fire to their Clothes, so that the Burning may be visible, and in this manner present themselves to them; who, if they accept them, have so much Pity as to send Fillets and Scarfs of Silk, to wrap up their Sores: And those are always most esteemed, that put themselves to the greatest Pain. They marry many Wives, which they may part with: The Nobility have as many
as

as they please ; but the Commonalty exceed not Seven. The Day appointed for the Marriage of any Great Person, his Relations and Friends get together at his House, dressed in his Liveries : Others that are not such particular Friends, are dress'd as they please, but as fine as they can. The Bride goes from her House on Horseback, with her Relations and Friends also on Horses, with many Singers before. The Bridegroom comes likewise from his House in the same Order ; that is, with a Train of his Relations and Friends ; and the two Troops being met, they go together to the Bride's House, where they have a Ball. When it is time to go to Bed, two Men conduct the Bridegroom into the Bride's Chamber, who comes in another Way : The Company continue dancing ; and about Midnight an old Woman comes in to them, with a Cloth having the
Signs

Signs of the Bride's Virginity which being presented to the Bridegroom's Relations and Friends, they appear well contented : But when these cannot be shewn, some old Women take the Bride from Bed, and the Bridegroom rejects her in the presence of the Company, after he has paid her a small Summ of Money ; and then her Parents carry her home in great Affliction.

(a) Cam- The Inhabitants of the Islands
baya is a of (a) *Cambaya, Palendura*, and the
Kingdom in (b) *Maldives in Asia*, observe this
the East- peculiar Ceremony in their Mar-
Indies, e- riages : When the Parties are a-
ver against greed, the Bride sends two of her
the Isle of nearest Relations by her Father's
Borneo ; Side, who are authorized to re-
bounded on present her. These, with the Bride-
the West groom, go before their Minister,
with the called *Pandiaro, or Naibo* ; who
Kingdom of of Colchin.

(b) *The Maldives in Asia are certain Islands, vast in Ex-
tent, and incredible for Number.*

takes

takes the Bridegroom by the Hand, and asks him if he will marry the Woman propos'd, and on the Conditions offer'd: He asks the Bride's Friends the same: And after Consent declar'd, the usual Ceremonies are perform'd, in presence of the Relations, who are Witnesses of this Contract. They go thence to the Woman, who is expecting them at home; where they are entertain'd, and have Musick. Many go then to complement the New-married, to whom they send Presents; as the Bridegroom does to the *Pandiaro* that married him, and to the King and Queen, if the Marriage be where they reside. When the King himself marries, all his Subjects are oblig'd to make him Presents; as, Cloth, Turbants, Meats, Fruits and Flowers.

They may have at the same time three Wives, if able to maintain them; but not more: And

D

when

when all are at home, the Husband is oblig'd to divide himself equally among them, and co-habit as long with one as another. The Women bring nothing to their Husbands, who are to accommodate them with what they want, and to be at the Charge of the Wedding, besides allotting them a Dowry, which they call *Rans*. The Men marry when they please; but the Women are married by their Parents, when they are Ten or Eleven Years old, to the first that desires them. The Orphans, or those that have no Mother alive, are oblig'd to stay till Fifteen Years. The *Pandiarii*, or *Naibi*, the Ministers of their Temples, ask if those who are to be married be either Brothers and Sisters, or Cousins, or whether used to call so; for if that has been at any time, though long since, such an imaginary Relation is sufficient to hinder any Marriage. The Husband may leave his Wife at
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any time, if she consent; and tho' he does not, he may leave her, paying her Dowry.

Through all the Isle of (a) Ceylan, Men may marry as many Wives as they can keep, and take them at Ten Years old, as in the Isles of Cambaya, and the Maldives.

(a) Ceylan, or Zeilan, is an Island in the East-Indies, of an Oval Form, 650 Miles in

compass; and contains nine Kingdoms; the principal of which is, the Kingdom of Candic, in the middle of the Island.

The Mahometans in the Isle of (b) Java may have no more than four or five Wives; but as many Concubines as they please, and can maintain. The Wedding-Day, their Friends, Slaves and Domesticks are richly habited, and set before the Houses of the Bridegroom and Bride many Pikes, with Fringes of White Cotton and red; and discharge several Guns.

(b) Java is a great Island in the East-Indian Sea, 200 Leagues in length. It is divided into nine Kingdoms, the greatest of which is Bantam.

Afternoon, the Bridegroom goes forth in this manner: Four Men go first, that have many Sticks

D 2 . fast-

fasten'd to a Pole, which others
 strike with little Sticks: These are
 follow'd again by others, who car-
 ry long Drums, which they beat
 either with Sticks, or their Hands:
 After these, others strike against
 Sticks tied about their Necks,
 and of them there are often Sixty,
 Eighty, or an Hundred, according
 to the Condition of the Bride-
 groom: Then you see others again
 with Peacocks Feathers, and Hor-
 ses Tails; and they follow'd by
 Thirty or Forty, arm'd with
 Shields, Darts and Swords, who
 from time to time stop in the
 Streets, to strike together, or
 dance, for the Diversion of the
 Spectators: Then are others with
 Drums and Sticks follow'd by
 Thirty Young Women, richly
 dress'd; some carrying Flowers,
 others Pictures, little Gilt Boxes,
 Moveables, and Habits of all sorts
 to present from the Bridegroom
 to the Bride. The Women follow
 immediately, who likewise carry
 divers

divers Pieces of Household-stuff. The Bridegroom is on Horseback, richly dress'd, having two of his most intimate Friends riding on each side of him; and a great Number of Persons invited to the Wedding conclude the Shew. When they are come to the Bride's House, all the Drums stay for the Bridegroom at the Door; and the Men that carry the Arms make a Lane for the Women that have the Furniture; after whom, the Bridegroom arriving, he dismounts, and then the Bride appears with a Vessel of Water, who on her Knees washes his Feet; and taking him by the Hand, leads him into the House, where they continue some time together: Then he, leading her, goes out with all the Company; and in the same Order as before, they go to his House, where the Bridegroom enters first, then all the Guests, who are entertain'd at the Marriage-Feasts for three Days together.

The Inhabitants of the Isles of
 (a) *The Isles of Molucca are few and small Islands towards the Western Shoar of the Isle of Gilolo, in the East-Indies.* (a) *Molucca*, that have still some Relicks of Idolatry with the *Macometan* Religion, which the *Persians* and *Arabians* have introduc'd there, may have as many Wives as he can keep; but are so jealous, they suffer no one to see them at home; and yet so lustful, there are few that have not some Correspondence abroad. He that desires a young Woman in Marriage, cannot see her, unless all be first agreed; then he sees her, and is oblig'd at the same time to take his Bride he never saw before, and carry her home with him.

Those of *Barbary*, especially such as are rich, marry many Women, which they buy not, as other *Turks*, but have Portions with them. They retain in their Marriages many Rites left them by the *Goths* and *Vandals*, who govern'd in

in these Parts ; but are so jealous, that the Married Women dare scarce shew their Faces uncover'd to their own Fathers.

The *Moors* of *Morocco* have many lawful Wives, besides the Concubines the *Alcoran* permits. When they marry, they go to the *Cadis*, or Judge, with a Notary, and Witnesses, and draw up the Instrument of Marriage ; that is, write what the Husband gives the Wife ; and this they call the *Codasca*, because in these Countries the Parents give not Fortunes to their Daughters, as in *Barbary* ; and when the Husband leaves them, (a Practice allow'd,) he pays them what he has engag'd. They have great Rejoicings at their Marriages ; and great Expences, especially among Persons of Quality, that thence comes the Proverb, *Li Christiani spendono tutte le loro inchezze in liti, gl'Ebrei nella loro Pasqna, e li Mori nelle loro*

Nizze. The Christians spend all they have in Law; the Jews, in their Passover; and the Moors, in their Marriages. The Wedding-Day the Bride rides on a Mule richly harness'd, and is hid in a sort of Tower, made with Hoops, and cover'd with Tapestry, so that she is not seen by any one, though through a thin Veil she can see the People; and in this Equipage goes through the City, follow'd by many Mules laden with Gold, given her for her Dowry. Men and Women follow the Mules; the Women only sing, or rather howl, in a manner, enough to strike Terrour, rather than excite Mirth; among which Cryings are heard double Drums, after the *Moorish* Way, which make another very odious Noise. This Procession ended, they go to Dinner, and then return to the publick Place; where, if the Bridegroom be a Man of Quality, all his Friends get on Horseback again, and

and exercise with the Lance before the Bride for two or three Hours, and then all go home.

If the Bride be a Person of very great Quality, she rides on a Camel richly habited, as before, only the Clothes that hang down are Silk and Gold Broccades, which they call *Gayola*. She is accompanied by a great many Gentlemen and Ladies, who sing; and when she has gone round the principal Places of the City, is brought back to her Father's House, then to her Husband's; where all the Guests meet together, to dance and feast. If the Husband finds not his Wife a Maid, he rejects her, and sends her home, with all she has brought: But if, on the contrary, he finds her what he desires, the Feasts are doubl'd the next Day. The *Jews* observe here the same Customs.

The Inhabitants of the Kingdom of *Fez*, as soon as the Father has promis'd his Daughter to him that sued for her, use to get together the Relations and Friends on both sides, in the Mosques ; where two Notaries, in the presence of Witnesses, write the Marriage-Contract : Then the Bridegroom takes all his Company to Dinner : The Father of the Bride likewise treats his Friends. When the Bridegroom brings his Bride home, he sends a Litter, cover'd with Silk and Broccades ; and she is attended by their Relations, and common Friends, with much Musick. The Married Men go first, with Torches in their Hands ; and their Wives follow, with the like. They all go to the great Piazza, where the Bridegroom, having saluted the Father and Relations of his Bride, takes leave of them ; and making haste, goes to expect the Company at his House. when they are
come,

come, the Father delivers the Bride either to the Bridegroom's Mother, or to himself, who is shut up with her: If he finds her a Virgin; the Entertainments follow; if not, he gives her to her Relations, and they return without any.

They make three Feasts in the Solemnity of their Marriages; the first, that Night the Bride is brought home; the second, the next Day, which is only for the Women; and the third, the seventh Day, when they say the Bride is made a Woman; and at this, her Father, Mother, and all her Relations bear a part. That Day the Father makes some Presents to his Son-in-Law; as, Sweetmeats, and Sheep. When the Husband goes first abroad, which he is not used to do till the Seventh Day, they have a Custom for him to buy Fish, and bring them home, and give them either to his Mother,

ther, or some other Woman, who casts them at his Wife's Feet, as a Sign of good Luck.

Besides these three Entertainments, they have two others in the Father's House; one the Day before the Marriage of his Daughter, when they dance all Night; the other the Day after, for the Women that dress'd the Bride. These do their Duty with much Ceremony; for they adorn her Head with much Wantonness, colour her Lips with Vermilion, paint her Hands and Feet with a shining Black, laying on little things that will not last long; at which time the Bride is expos'd in an eminent place; that she may be seen by all.

When she is gone to her Husband's House, her Friends send many large Vessels, full of Bread steep'd in Oil, and Honey, and of ten whole Sheep roasted; and he invites

invites many Persons to his Feast, among whom he distributes these Presents.

If a Widow marry, it is done with less noise : and in the Entertainment they give only Beef, Mutton and Pullets, all boil'd : The Number of the Guests must not exceed ten or twelve Persons. The Common People feast at less Expence ; for at their Marriages they have a great Wooden Platter, with Minc'd Meat and Potage.

Those of *Algiers* and *Tunis* do not imitate the other *Mahometans* in the great Multiplicity of their Wives, but are content with one or two ; for they are oblig'd strictly to observe an Equality among them, and to treat them in the same manner, assigning to each the same Quantity of Moveables and Service. This hinders not their being Rivals, and having cruel Hatreds

Hatreds to one another, which
 descend to their Children, and are
 often the Causes of many Trage-
 dies. They are in Love, as o-
 thers, without ever seeing their
 Mistresses; but having obtain'd
 them of their Parents, they assign
 the Dowry, which must be accept-
 ed by them. Some Days before
 the Marriage, the Lover sends his
 Mistress divers sorts of Meats,
 and they make a Feast and Ball at
 both their Houses. In her own
 House, the young Woman sits on
 the Ground, for in *Barbary* they
 use no Chairs nor Stools; and
 while they dance, she changes her
 Dress oftentimes, appearing among
 them with her Hands and Arms
 painted, and sometimes her Face
 all cover'd with divers Jewels.
 About Night she is conducted,
 with her Face cover'd, attended
 with Drums, and other Instru-
 ments of Musick; and her Hus-
 band takes her, and is shut up
 with her in his Chamber, while
 all

all her Relations anxiously expect to know whether she be found a Virgin, that they may go on with the usual Rejoicings on the like Occasions. The New-Married continue seven Days at home, without going abroad, only the Husband goeth forth to the Bath, which he is oblig'd to do as often as he enjoys his Wife.

The *Moors* of *Egypt* have many Wives, which they keep in the same *Seraglio*, or Cloister, where every one has her particular Chamber: But the *Moors* of *Granada*, that were driven from *Spain*, called *Moros Francos*, can have no more than one Wife. Those of *Egypt*, the better to assure their Mistresses of their Affections for them, burn their Bodies with red hot Irons, and cut their Arms in many places before them; and if, at such an Action, their Mistresses kiss their Hands, it is a Sign they shall obtain what they desire.

Those

Those who inhabit *Jalofarum* and *Senega*, among the *Negroes*, marry as many Wives as they can keep; though they shew greater Honour to some, than others, according to their Birth, or Worth of their Families. As soon as a Woman is known to be with Child, her Husband must not lie with her any more till she is brought to Bed.

The *Tartars* that are Subjects to the *Moscovites* marry many Wives; and the more they have, are esteem'd the richer, and more respected; and that makes them strive which shall have most.

The *Tartars de Procop*, called the *Little Tartars*, have also many Wives: They buy oftentimes Slaves, that they oftentimes make their Wives; by whom, if they have Children, and live vertuously, they are treated very honourably;

ably ; and therefore often have very modest and obedient Wives, being deliver'd from the Misery of Slavery, to the Liberty of Marriage. There reigns such an horrid Jealousie among these *Tartars*, that they never suffer their Wives to go to Church, or any where, without them : And they are the same to their Concubines, though they have a very great Number of them. When any Man dies after Marriage promis'd, the Woman is not allow'd to marry, because they think they shall meet in the other World, and consummate there.

Mar-

Marriage Ceremonies.

PART III.

The Customs and Ceremonies observed in the Marriages of the Idolaters and Pagans.

THE *Indians* are either *Pagans*, *Mahometans*, *Jews*, *Christians of St. Thomas*, or *Roman-Catholicks*; but as they all follow in their Marriages those Rules their Religion prescribes them, we will discourse in this Part only of those that remain yet in the *Darkness of Paganism*, and *Idolatry*.

In

In some Places, the *Pagans* have only one principal Wife, (but as many others as they please,) with whom Contract is commonly made at Marriage, that they shall cast themselves into their Husbands Funeral-Pile. Their Marriages are celebrated eight Days, with Musick, Balls and Feasts; and all that time the Guests apply themselves to nothing but Singing, Dancing, and all sorts of Rejoicings. They dance after their manner, two and two together, in divers Couples; when they meet, they change two little Sticks they hold in their Hands.

The People of (a) *Cunkan* and (a) *Cunkan* is a considerable Kingdom in the East-Indies.
 (b) *Balagatta* marry their Sons at Seven or Eight Years of Age, and make them consummate at Twelve. (b) *Balagatta*, or *Balagnata*, is a Country of Asia, among Mountains, in a Peninsula of India, near the River Ganges.

Table

Table almost Day and Night; Drums and Trumpets playing. The Wedding-Day all the Relations meet together at the Bridegroom's House, and sitting on the Ground, confirm the Marriage; after which, to add greater Force to their Promises, they walk seven times round the Fire. They marry always with Persons of their own Rank; and the Bride brings nothing to her Husband, but a little Jewel of small value.

(a) Bina-
gar is a
Kingdom
and great
Country in
the East-
Indies.

Those of the Kingdom of (a) Bina-
gar have no determinate Num-
ber of Wives; and when married,
the King, for a small Summ from
the Women, will, upon their De-
sire, loose them from the Bands
of Matrimony, and grant them Li-
berty to marry others; All the Ce-
remony of this Divorce is only
laying a Piece of Iron on the Wo-
man's Shoulder, who is by that
set free. There are in that King-
dom, many Parents, that by Vow
con-

consecrate their Daughters Virginity to some Idol; and when that is done, they are conducted by Night, with all their Relations. to the Temple; when come thither, they get up into a Stone-Pulpit, all anorn'd with Tapestry and Cloth of Gold, and in the presence of them all, embrace the Idol three times.

Those of *Canara* observe the same Rites in their Marriages, as those of *Cunkan*.

The People of (b) *Malabar*, that inhabit the Coast of *India* on this side *Ganges*, are divided into the *Bramini*, *Nairi*, and *Machesi*, that are the meanest of them. The first are the most respected, and use different Manners of Living. They marry very young, that is, at Seven or Eight Years of Age: They never make an Alliance with any of another Rank, and may marry twice. The *Nairi*, who live in the

(b) *Malabar* is a small Peninsular, or Promontory, of the *hither East-Indies*.

the Country, cannot only marry with none but of their own Degree, but are prohibited more than one Wife. It is not so with the Women ; they may have three Husbands, all at the same time, who, without any Jealousie, contribute to the Maintenance of her and her Children. When one of the Husbands goes to the Wife's House, he leaves his Arms at the Door, and the others take care not to enter till he is gone,

The Women of *Malabar* are very Amorous ; and therefore, as soon as their Daughters are Fourteen, their Parents marry them, to preserve the Honour of their Family, of which they are not very jealous neither ; concluding, they merit greater Esteem, the more Lovers they have. They use many Ceremonies and Rejoicings in their Marriages. As soon as the Marriage is agreed, they go to the Temple, or *Pagodo*, to present the
Bride-

Bridegroom and Bride to their Priests: After fifteen Days, the Relations and Friends of the Bride conduct her to her Husband's House, where they pass the Time in Diversions of Musick and Balls, which only the Women make, and are admir'd by the Men for their Dressing and Beauty. They give to all, even Strangers, Refreshments. After the manner of the Country, the New-married sit in a rais'd Throne, richly habited, and so loaded with Jewels, they can scarce bear them. The Room where these Feasts are made, is always richly furnish'd with Gold, Arras, and Silk; and twice a Day they cover the Tables, to treat the Guests, at the Expence of the Husband; the Bride returning home every Night, with the Women appointed to wait on her. At last, fifteen Days being spent in Rejoicing and Feasting, the New-married get upon an Elephant, richly dress'd, sitting on two Seats, and

and are follow'd by all their Train, which goes on foot through the City: They stop at Relations Houses, who present Sweet-Meats to the Company, and cast divers Odoriferous Liquors upon the Elephant; no one omitting to do something, for that would be a very great Neglect. The Cavalcade ended, they all go to the *Pagoda*, or Temple; thence to the Bride's House, where they consummate the Marriage; and every one in the Train departs after he has made a Present to him that led the Elephant.

When one of *Conchin* marries, whosoever he is, he may not lie with his Bride the first Night, but is oblig'd to give her to a *Brumino*, who lies with her. These are so fear'd, and respected, no one dares hinder them lying with any Woman; nay, the Common People are so foolish, to believe it a Favour, and good Omen.

The

The *Malleani*, that live in the Mountains of *Mallabar*, have only one Wife, who is always with them, even at Hunting. In this they differ very much from other *Pagans* in those Parts; who, to speak Truth, have no Wives, all Women being common among them.

In (a) *Bengala* they allow Polygamy, according to their Abilities to maintain them, but keep them in close Custody.

(a) *Bengala*, or *Bengal*, is a Kingdom in the East-Indies, on the River

Ganges, under the Great Mogul: It is a very fruitful Country, and extends 220 Leagues from East to West, and 120 from North to South.

In (b) *Pegu* they have extraordinary Ceremonies in their Marriages. As they were heretofore much addicted to an unnatural Vice, their Queen made very severe Punishments for those should be convicted of it, even to the Burning them alive: And to divert the Fury of this infamous Lust, she

(b) *Pegu*, one of the principal Cities in the further East-Indies. The Kingdom of *Pegu* was once a most potent Empire, but is now much diminished.

E

com-

commanded, the Women should go almost naked, to attract Men's Love to them. When they marry, they must pay the Father of the young Woman a certain Sum agreed on ; which he pays back if he will have his Daughter home, from any ill Usage of her Husband, who may likewise leave her, only he is to keep and educate the Children. The Women being naturally extreamly Amorous, the Men are very nice in marrying them ; making the strictest Enquiries before they engage : And from hence it is, that many Fathers, to preserve their Daughters Virgins, sow up their *Pudenda*, and in that Condition deliver them to their Husbands, that they may be ascertain'd of their Honesty. The King, and those of greatest Quality, lie not the first Night with their Wives ; but admit others, and pay them bountifully, that will give themselves the Trouble.

In (a) *Siam*, after the manner of (a) *Siam*,
Pegu, they may marry many Wives. a Town and Kingdom beyond Gan-
ges, in the East-Indies
But the *Mahometans* of these Coun-
tries observe not their ridiculous
Ceremonies, fit only for a Nation
blinded with Idolatry:

The *Chinese* marry their Sons
very young, some Fathers marry-
ing them as soon as they are born.
The Husband gives the Wife a
Dowry. The Wedding-Day, the
Bride's Father makes a splendid
Entertainment, to which he invites
all the Relations and Friends of his
new Son. The next Day, the Fa-
ther, or, for want of him, the
nearest Kinsman of the Bridegroom
does the same. After the Enter-
tainment, the Husband gives the
Dowry to his Bride, in presence of
all the Guests ; which she present-
ly gives to her Father and Mother,
if they be alive, for the Trouble
and Charges they have had in edu-
cating her : And therefore here a

Man is reckon'd rich, in proportion to the Daughters he has. The Father may use this Dowry with all Freedom ; but when he dies, it returns to his Daughter, for the Advantage of her Children, or to be otherwise dispos'd of at her Pleasure. A Man may have many Wives, but the first married is reckon'd his true Wife ; the other are only look'd upon as Friends, and often forc'd to do the Drudgery of Servants : They live only with the first, keeping the others abroad ; and if Merchants, in Places where they traffick.

They think it unlawful to marry Sisters, or other near Relations ; and observe not to take a Wife of their own Name, though no Relation to them ; and marry the same Age and Quality. The Conditions of their Mind are consider'd more than Beauty : The ordinary Price they give for them, is, an Hundred Crowns ; and often less. The Com-

mon People buy and sell their Wives at pleasure. *Mendoza*, a grave Author, reports, that in the Provinces bordering on *Tartary*, the Governors and Vice-Roys prescribe a certain Time both to the Men and Women, within which they are oblig'd, either to shut themselves up in a Cloister, or marry. When that Time is come, all that will marry, appear the set Day at a City appointed in every Province to that end. When there, they present themselves to twelve principal Persons, named by the King; who take in Writing the Names of the Men and Women, and their Qualities; informing themselves exactly what Dowries the Men are able to give. Afterwards they view the List, both of the Men and Women; and if they find more Men than Women, or more Women than Men, they cast Lots, and the others are married first the next Year. Six of the twelve Persons divide the Men in-

to three Classes ; put the Rich in the first, without any Regard to their Breeding and Accomplishments ; those that are moderately so, in the next ; and the Poor, in the last. While these make the Division of the Men, the others divide the Women in three other Classes ; putting in one the fairest, in another the less fair, and in the last those that are least handsom : They assign the less Fair to the less Rich, without paying any thing for them ; the least Handsom, to the Poor ; and afterwards share among them all the Money they have oblig'd the Rich to pay. These Marriages being adjusted in this manner, they have great Rejoicings in the Houses the King has appointed them : For in every of these Cities there are Houses furnish'd with many Beds, and all things necessary for Living ; inso-much that every one takes what he wants, and keeps them for fifty Days that the Feast lasts ;
after

after which, they all return home.

All these Circumstances are observ'd most by the Commonalty, and not by the Gentry, and Persons of higher Rank, who are not subjected to this Law, but may marry when, and how they please.

Those of (a) *Japan* have commonly only one Wife, but are divorc'd from her, and send her home for very small Causes, and afterwards marry others. The Women have not the same Liberty.

(a) Japan, or Japonia, is a vast Country in the Eastern Ocean, suppos'd to be an Island 150 German Miles in length, and 70 broad.

The *Heathen-Tartars* have many Wives, who live together in great Quiet. They give Money to their Wives Mothers, as a Recompence for the Advantage receiv'd from them. The first Wife is look'd upon most lawful, and so are the Children born of her. When the Father dies, the Son may marry all his

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his Wives, excepting his Mother, and her Sisters : They marry their Half-Sisters, after their Brother's Death ; and make very great Entertainments at these Marriages.

(a) Tangut, or Tangu-tum, is a Kingdom in the Asian Tartary, towards China, and the East-Indies.

(b) Catay, or Catio, is a Region of Asia, supposed by learned Men to be some part of China.

The People of (a) *Tangut* and (b) *Catay* marry as many Wives as they can keep : And if any poor young Woman be beautiful, a rich Man marries her presently, and gives her Mother and Family a Reward to have her ; as, Cattel, Slaves, and oftentimes Money ; they valuing only Beauty. They have to thirty Wives, more or less, according to their Abilities ; but the first is always chiefest. And if any is infirm, or not agreeable, they send her home. They marry their Relations, as the *Tartars* do, even to their Step-mothers.

In *Caindu* they have a Custom different from the People of *Tangut* when they are married ; they invite all the Strangers that come in-
to

to the Country to their Houses, and leave them freely with their Wives, who have a Counter-sign at the Door, which they take not away till they go, that the Husbands may then return.

In (a) *Cascar* they leave Strangers with their Wives, without any Jealousie. And in the Kingdom of *Pein*, if any one be absent twenty Days together, his Wife may marry another Husband; and Men may after that Term marry again, where-ever they are.

(a) *Cascar*
a City and
Kingdom in
Turquestan,
in Tartary.

The *Canarini*, in the Isle of *Goa*, worship a naked Statue, to which they bring their Daughters when they will marry them, that they may pray for the happy Success of their Marriage. The Prayer ended, the Daughter is married to the first that seeks her. As to the Feasts and Ceremonies observ'd on the Wedding-Day, we have treated in the Chapter of the *Christians* of *Goa*.

The *Negroes* of *Africa*, that dwell in the Kingdom of *Serralione*, have in every City or Borough an House a-part from others, where their Daughters retire, and are instructed for one Year, by an old Man, of a good Family, vertuous, and religious. At the End of the Year they come forth all together, well dress'd, and go into the publick Piazza, to dance to several Instruments of Musick: Their Fathers are present; and the young Men chuse whom they like best, giving something to their Fathers before they marry them. They present also the old Man, for his Trouble of instructing and keeping them; then take them home, where they compleat the Ceremonies of their Marriages.

(a) *Guinea* is a very large Country in *Africa*, upon the Coast of the Ocean.

In (a) *Guinea*, when the Sons are old enough to marry, their Fathers seek them Wives; and when they have found to their Minds, give them,

them, and oblige them to take them, though never seen before. The Son has nothing from his Father, who sends him naked (if he has gain'd nothing by his own Labour) into the World, to lay the Foundation of his own Family. The Bride's Relations give them a small Summ in Gold ; and though very rich, add little more than what the Poor give ; for what they receive, is only for the Expence of the Feast. This Custom is so well observ'd, that the King's Daughters have no more than one Slave to serve them. The Bride swears, in the Presence of the Company, that she will be faithful, and preserve her Conjugal Chastity : Which Oath is never requir'd of the Husband.

If, during the Marriage, a Man get so much, that he is able to maintain another Wife, he cannot marry her without the Consent of the first ; to which if she consent,
he

he is oblig'd to pay her so much; and the Woman is receiv'd into the House, more as a Concubine, than Wife. When the Husband observes his Wife grow old, he may forsake her, to marry a younger. However, he keeps her in his House, where she is bound to give an Account of it, and serve the younger; look after the Kitchen, and do what pleases her Husband.

(a) Monomotapa is a City and Kingdom in the Southern Æthiopia, in Africa, of great Extent, containing in it 25 other Kingdoms; and reaches, from the North to the South, 250 Spanish Leagues.

The People of (a) *Monomotapa*, in the Lower *Ethiopia*, marry, according to their Abilities, as many Wives as they will; but the first is the chieftest, the others serve her; and her Children succeed in the Inheritance. No one may marry a Woman past Child-bearing: And when the Women are first Big, there is great Joy in their Families. The old Women, when not like to conceive, may not marry. The Virgins go naked till married, and then wear a thin Silk; and

and when they have Children, cover their Bellies and Breasts closer.

The Inhabitants of (a) *Zocotara* (a) *Zocotara*, *Dioscoridis Insula*, *Ogyris*, a Town and Island upon the Coast of Zanguebar, in Africa have the like Polygamy, and may change them at pleasure, and that by carrying them into a Market, or publick Place; where they exchange for others, either for a Time, or for ever.

Those of (b) *Canada* content themselves with one Wife, though they are not forbid many. (b) *Canada* is a large Country in the North America.

The *Samogosi* have many, not so much out of Lust, as to gain Authority by Alliances, and a Multitude of Children. The Fathers never endow, nor give any thing to their Daughters: Nay, He that marries one of them, makes their Parents Presents, in proportion to their Abilities, or the Beauty of their Daughter. They celebrate their Marriages

solemnly, with Songs, Musick, Balls, and Panegyricks on the New-Married. When a Woman is taken in Adultery, she atones for the Crime with her Life; as does the Adulterer: It is not so with the unmarried Women, to whom it is no Dishonour to have been enjoy'd by their Lovers.

(a) Florida is a very large and fruitful Country in the North America.

The Inhabitants of (a) Florida have only one Wife, to distinguish them from their Kings, and great Lords, who have two or three; but on this Compact however, that the first shall have the chief Authority in the House, and that their Sons shall inherit the Fathers Estates, or Government. But all these Wives apply themselves indifferently to the Care of the House: And when one is with Child, the Husband must not any longer lie with her.

The

The Islanders of (a) *Cuba*, before their Isle was possessed by the *Christians*, married at pleasure, and only so long as they were content to keep together ; for the Separation was as well on the one side, as the other, when they pleas'd.

(a) *Cuba* is a great Island in the Bay of Mexico, in America, to the South of Florida, which is one of the greatest belonging to that

part of the World, discovered by the Spaniards.

The *Cacichi* had divers Wives ; and all invited to the Wedding, use the Bride at pleasure, as well among Persons of better Rank, as the Commonalty.

The (b) *Mexicans*, before they receiv'd the *Christian Faith*, married in this manner : They both presented themselves to their Priest ; who taking them by their Hands, ask'd them many Questions ; and lastly, of their Desire to be married together. Then

(b) *Mexico* is a vast City in the North of America, the Capital of New-Spain, and of a Province of the same Name, the

Sent of the Spanish Vice-Roy of the West-Indies, and an Archbishop's See.

taking

taking the Skirt of the Woman's Veil, and that of the Man's Garment, tied them together, and led them so fasten'd to the Bride's House, where was a great Fire kindled; they went seven times round this Fire, and sate down together; which ended all the Ceremonies, and the Marriage was compleat.

The Inhabitants of *Civola*, or *New Granata*, are content with one Wife, whom they may freely leave; as the Women may their Husbands with the same Liberty, when they know they go astray.

Those of *Cumana*, before they marry their Daughters, send them into the publick Piazza's, that they may by Conversation learn the Burthens and Duties of Matrimony. The Persons of Note, and the Rich, marry many Women, at pleasure; take all Travellers

vellers to their Houses, they meet in the Roads, and let them enjoy those of their Wives they like best.

In (a) *Paria* they may have many Wives ; but one is Mistress of the House, and commands the others. Those of the meanest Condition have, at least, two or three : And they may all, when their Wives begin to grow old, turn them off, and take others younger. The Priests teach them when they are young ; and from them they learn all necessary Arts.

(a) *Paria is a Province in the Terra Firma, in South America, near the North Sea, and under the Dominion of the Spaniards.*

The (b) *Caribbees* use the same Customs : But on the Wedding-Day, and many Days after, they take their Wives, with great Noise and Attendance, into the Woods, where they hunt and kill all they meet with.

(b) *The Caribbees, or Cariby-Ilands, are a Knot of small Ilands, that lie extended like a Bow, from the Coast of Paria in America, to the Isle of Rico Porto.*

The

The *Topinambous*, Inhabitants of *Brasil*, in the Southern *America*, have no other Regard in their Marriages, but to Affinity in the first Degree, becaute from the Second they may marry all their Relations. They allow Polygamy, which gives them the Repute of being brave, and rich. The Partiality they shew to one more than another, makes not the others jealous ; and they live all very peaceably. As to the Ceremonies ; He that has a Mind to a young Woman, seeks her of her Father, and next Relation ; and when he has obtain'd Consent, leads her home, and she becomes his Wife. They promise their Sons in their Childhood ; and when at Years, they are bound to stand to the Will of their Parents. Yet the Husband may cast off his Wife upon any great Distaste ; as she may also, on the like Occasion ; telling him plainly,

plainly, she leaves him, to seek another more civil Husband: And these Separations do not subject them to any Resentment.

In (a) *Peru* they had many Wives before they were *Roman Catholicks*; yet only one was reckon'd lawful. When they would marry any one, they went to her House, and, with the Father's Consent, put her on an *Ottoy*, which is a Shooe they use, and so lead her home: When they had a Virgin, the *Ottoy* was of Wool; if she had been taken by others before, it was of Rushes. All the Concubines were bound to honour the first Wife; and she only, upon the Death of her Husband, put on Mourning for a Year, during which time she could not marry again.

(a) *Peru is a large Country in South America, affording great Plenty of Gold and Silver Mines; and at the Discovery, the most potent Kingdom in South America.*

The *Itatini* and *Varaes*, that live in the Province of *Santa Crose*, have many Wives. There the

the Neice may marry her Uncle: And when the Daughter is a Year old, the Parents design her an Husband, who is always her next a-kin after the Second Degree. They go to seek him; and for Confirmation of the Marriage agreed, carry him a Bow, Arrows, and a Spade. If he takes them, he is presently conducted home as a Son-in-Law, where he learns to know and manage the Interests of his Bride, till she is at an Age capable to do it. When a young Man would get him a Wife, he goes to her Parents, and presents them a Bundle of Sticks. If they are receiv'd, it is a Sign the Motion is embrac'd; and the House, from that time, is free to him. Soon after a Woman is married, she makes a Shroud to bury her Husband, and another for her self.

In (a) *Guiana*, or *New Andalu-* (a) *Guia-*
sia, the Persons of highest Qua- *na is a*
lity, and richest, marry two or *large Coun-*
three Wives, and often more; *try in the*
the Commonalty being oblig'd to *South A-*
one. The other Wives are but *merica,*
as Servants to the first. Those *which for*
who have the greatest Number of *many Years*
Women, are most esteem'd, and *has been in-*
respected: In other things, they *habited by*
follow the Customs of *Peru*. *English,*
There are in *Syria* a sort of Peo- *Dutch and*
ple, called *Drusi*, who by some *French.*
are believ'd *Christians*; but in
their Actions, are neither *Chri-*
tians, nor *Jews*. These indiffe-
rently marry their Daughters,
Mothers, and Sisters; giving this
for a Reason, That they have had
Children by them, and not by
others; and no one can forbid
them the Use of their own. They
have some Feasts in the Year,
when all the Men and Women
meet together, to divert them-
selves. There they feast in com-
mon;

mon ; and after they have drunk, give a mutual Liberty to enjoy those Women they like most ; renouncing, on this Occasion, any Propriety in their Wives.

The *Eastern Japonese*, commonly called *Lopes Salvatici*, contract their Marriages in the Presence of their Parents and Friends ; the first Ceremony being, Striking against a Stone, out of which he that makes most Fire come, is esteem'd the most excellent. The Marriage thus establish'd, the Bride, dress'd in Ermin Skins, or Sables, is set upon a tame Bear, and her Relations and Friends accompany her to the Cave, or Tent, (because they have no Houses, nor Cities,) singing, and wishing them Health and Issue. The Bridegroom is also in Bear Skins, or Martins ; and from that time, they live together. They fail not Feasting, and Dancing to some Rustick Musick, and to sing

the Praises of their Ancient Captains in Verse; in Memory of whom, to bewail their Deaths, their Singing is interrupted, and they lament, cry, groan, and cast themselves on the Ground; with a Thousand Contorsions, as desperate Persons, for some great Loss; after which, they return to their Singing and Balls, and spend the Day in Feasting.

In the Southern Parts of (a) *Magellanica*, when a Man likes a young Woman, he demands her of her Parents, in a full Assembly; and before he goes away, if her Parents consent, he takes her, and carries her home, without more Ceremony. The Company get together the next Day, to feast; after which, the Husband receives what is assign'd him in Dowry with his Wife, who is bound to exercise the same Trade and Profession of Life as her Husband does, and to be never out of his sight.

(a) *Magellanica* is a Country in South America, of great Extent towards the South Pole.

fight. When she is false to her
Conjugal Duty, her Husband
sends her back to her Parents,
who shave her; and if her Hus-
band be content to take her home
again, she is never more enjoy'd
by him, but oblig'd to serve him
as long as she lives.

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Alphabetical Table

OF THE

SEVERAL PEOPLE

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